Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

AEC-05 CIAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 /026 W ----- 032498

R 141115Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6118

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, G, US

SUBJ: EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS OF CESSNAS

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE A-7; (B) STATE 27458; (C) STATE 28625

1. REFAIR, WHICH OBVIOUSLY CROSSED WITH REFTELS, SHOULD ANSWER MOST OF QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTELS. SPECIFICALLY REGARDING SALE OF U206 BY AIR SERVICE TO G. MARSOT, CASE NUMBER 146459, EMBASSY DOES NOT SHARE OPINION EXPRESSED REF B THAT JANUARY 24 TELEX FROM A. CRAIG BEGGED QUESTION OF RE-EXPORT. AS REFAIR AND LIBREVILLE 1253 POINT OUT, AIR SERVICE IS CESSNA DISTRIBUTORSHIP FOR ALL OF FRANCO-PHONE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA. THUS, ANY RE-EXPORT OF PLANE (IF IN FACT IT EVER HAPPENED) WOULD BE TO ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES, NOT REPEAT NOT TO RHODESIA, IT OBVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR EITHER AIR SERVICE OR MARSOT TO GIVE NAME AND COUNTRY OF SOMEONE WHO MIGHT REPURCHASE PLANE IN SEVERAL YEARS WHEN (A) PLANE HAS NOT EVEN BEEN DELIVERED TO MARSOT AND (B) WHEN MARSOT HAS NOT DECIDED TO SELL PLANE BACK TO AIR SERVICE, BUT RATHER SEES THIS AS MERE POSSIBILITY.

2. EMBASSY THUS BELIEVES AIR SERVICE HAS ACCURATELY AND FAIRLY PRESENTED CASE REGARDING THE U206. IT WILL BE SOLD BY AIR SERVICE TO G. MARSOT OF PORT-GENTIL FOR USE IN HIS WOOD INDUSTRY. (AS POINTED OUT IN LIBREVILLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1253, THIS IS PRINCIPAL USE FOR SMALL PLANES IN GABON

AND NOT UNUSUAL BY ANY MEANS.) AFTER SEVERAL YEARS,
MARSOT MAY SELL PLANE BACK TO AIR SERVICE (PERHAPS AS
PART OF A TRADE-IN) WHICH IN TURN MIGHT RE-SELL IT TO A
CUSTOMER IN ITS BUSINESS AREA, WHICH INCLUEES FRANCOPHONE AFRICA. IF THE PLANE WERE TO BE SOLD OUTSIDE GABON,
AIR SERVICE IS AWARE OF THE FORMS THAT MUST AT THAT TIME
BE SUBMITTED. FYI. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS NO WTDR INFORMATION
ON MARSOT, SOURCES IN LIBREVILLE SAY HE IS SERIOUS
BUSINESSMAN WHO HEADS COMPANY CALLED SOCIETE DES TRANSPORT
MARSOT (STM) BASED IN PORT-GENTIL. STM HAS SEVERAL WOOD
CONCESSIONS OF ITS OWN THAT IT EXPLOITS, BUT BUSINESS'
PRINCIPAL RAISON D'ETRE IS TRANSPORT OF SUPPLIES, MAIL,
AND PEOPLE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS WOOD CONCESSIONS AND
PORT-GENTIL. THUS THE NECESSITY FOR A CESSNA. EMBASSY
REQUESTING WTDR INFORMATION. END FYI.

- 3. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS IN REFTEL C, GABONESE AIR FORCE DOES IN FACT OPERATE GRUMMAN GULFSTREAM THAT WAS SOLD TO GOG FOR PRESIDENTIAL USE AND FINANCED BY EXIM. AIR FORCE HAS ONLY PILOTS IN COUNTRY CAPABLE OF FLYING GULFSTREAM AND IS CHARGED WITH MAINTAINING PLANE FOR PRESIDENT. REFAIR POINTS OUT THAT AIR SERVICE DOES REALIZE THAT IT NECESSARY TO HAVE SEPARATE COMMERCE AUTHORIZATION TO RE-EXPORT AIRCRAFT AND THAT AT THAT TIME CUSTOMER MUST BE IDENTIFIED.
- 4. EMBASSY HOPES THAT LICENSES, ESPECIALLY ONE FOR MARSOT WHO IS ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR PLANE, CAN BE EXPEDITIOUSLY GRANTED AND REGRETS CLIMATE OF SUSPICION THAT CONTINUES TO HANG OVER AIR SERVICE DESPITE ITS PAST RECORD AND REPEATED ASSURANCES ON ITS PART.

 MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: EXPORT LICENSES, AIRCRAFT SALES, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975| IBREV00211

Document Number: 1975LIBREV00211 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D750055-0940 From: LIBREVILLE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750242/aaaablqx.tel Line Count: 92

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) LIBREVILLE A-7; (B) STATE 27458;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 25 AUG 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2003 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS OF CESSNAS TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, ESTC, US
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006